

What Everyone is Saying About the Sham Republican Rx Drug Deal

“When Congress set aside \$400 billion (over ten years) to address the problem, we understood that whatever proposal emerged would be able to address only a fraction of the problem. Because the Conferees failed to adopt a plan that curbs prescription drug expenditures, and instead developed a model that relies on an insurance industry eager to see Medicare privatized while collecting more government subsidies, Consumers Union reluctantly concludes that, on balance, Medicare beneficiaries will be severely harmed by this proposal.”

--Consumers Union, 11/17/03

“The Medicare Rights Center has set a very low bar to support Medicare legislation: it must be better no than no bill for people with Medicare. The legislation no being promoted by Congressional leaders cannot meet even this low bar. The bill under consideration does more harm than good.”

--Robert Hayes, President, Medical Rights Center, 11/14/03

“This proposal does too much to destroy Medicare and too little to help the seniors who can least afford their medicines.”

--Ron Pollack, Executive Director, Families USA, 11/17/03

“This Congress, in our view, has missed an historic opportunity to finally provide prescription drug coverage to millions of senior citizens and people with disabilities who receive their health care through either the Medicare program alone or in coordination with the Medicaid program.... Our inability to support this bill stems from our overall concern that over the next decade, it shifts resources from a successful government program to the private, for-profit sector.”

--Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities, 11/20/03

“America’s seniors will not be fooled by television ads, paid for by special interests, with actors asking Congress “when are you going to get it done?” Real seniors...are not asking when are you going get it done but what are you going to do? Right now the answer they’re getting from Congress is “we’re going to raise your premiums, force you into HMOs and PPOs all while we do nothing to bring down the costs of prescription drugs.” That is not the answer seniors have been waiting for.”

--Edward F. Coyle, Executive Director, Alliance for Retired Americans, 11/17/03

“It is becoming clear that the Medicare prescription drug bill will do more harm than good. Congress should reject this deeply flawed plan and develop a true bipartisan bill that provides a prescription drug plan that strengthens the Medicare program... While we need something to help those senior citizens who do not have prescription drug coverage, this is not the right answer. We need a drug benefit that is affordable, available, guaranteed and under the Medicare program.”

--National Hispanic Council on Aging, 11/20/03

“Our nation’s and people with disabilities—in many cases, the most vulnerable among us—need genuine reform. ...The current bill does not offer a solution to our nation’s Medicare prescription drug problems, and in many cases will result in seniors and disabled Americans pay more for their prescription drugs, or not being able to purchase them at all...The NAACP urges Congress to go back to the negotiating table and to come out with a proposal that genuinely makes life saving drugs affordable and available to seniors, especially low income seniors...the current bill does not protect Americans and should be opposed.”

--Hilary Shelton, Director, NAACP, 11/20/03

“It would be preferable to go back to the drawing board and reconsider what Medicare should look like instead of accepting a mediocre compromise that harms more than it helps.”

--League of United Latin American Citizens, 11/19/03

“It is becoming clear that the Medicare prescription drug bill will do more harm than good. Congress should reject this deeply flawed plan and develop a true bipartisan bill that provides a prescription drug plan that strengthens the Medicare program. This is what our seniors expect and deserve. The prescription drug plan that has been offered provides, at best, inadequate benefits. Even worse, the bill will undermine the healthcare of our seniors through provisions that will privatize Medicare, eliminate existing retiree health plans and, for the first time, require Medicare to be means tested.”

--Sandra Feldman, President, American Federation of Teachers, 11/17/03